

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2739
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PORT OF SPAIN 02200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, OTRA (BARRY, ROBERT L.)

SUBJECT: PRE-33RD UNGA CONSULTATIONS: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WORKING LEVEL GOTT FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS LISTENED POLITELY, BUT NON-COMMITTALLY TO BARRY'S DISCUSSION OF UNGA ISSUES. THEIR PRIMARY EXPRESSED INTEREST WAS IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BUT EVEN HERE THEY WERE GROPING FOR AN APPROACH RATHER THAN ADVANCING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. THEY DID NOT REACT NEGATIVELY TO BARRY'S DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO, BUT CLEARLY ANY DECISION TO CHANGE GOTT VOTE IN COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS, WHO WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO MAKE SUCH A DECISION AS A RESULT OF THIS US DEMARCHE. GOTT OFFICIALS REACTED WITH SOME INTEREST TO THE IDEA THAT TRINIDAD MIGHT CONTRIBUTE A CIVILIAN OR POLICE CONTINGENT TO UN EFFORT IN NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

2. DAS BARRY, CHARGE O'MAHONY, AND ECONOMIC OFFICER LINCOLN MET WITH TERRENCE BADEN-SEMPER, OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; CYRIL BLANCHFIELD, RESPONSIBLE FOR
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UN AFFAIRS, AND SHEELAGH DE OSUNA, NORTH AMERICAN DESK OFFICER FOR AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF ON JULY 27. FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON AND OTHER RANKING FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WERE IN PORT OF SPAIN DURING BARRY VISIT, BUT DID NOT MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH BARRY.

3. IN EFFORT TO AVOID STIRRING UP GOTT SENSITIVITIES,

BARRY BEGAN HIS PRESENTATION BY OFFERING US VIEWS ON THEMES RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON IN HIS GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT AT 32ND GA.

A. ENERGY. BARRY NOTED THAT DONALDSON HAD SUPPORTED SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY INSTITUTE, SAID THAT US SUPPORTED THE IDEA TOO, BUT SUGGESTED THAT IDEA HAD GAINED LITTLE SUPPORT. HE ASKED IF GOTT HAD TAKEN A POSITION ON PROPOSED 1980 CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY. BADEN-SEMPER REACTED DEFENSIVELY, NOTING THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN IN LIST OF ISSUES EMBASSY SAID BARRY WANTED TO DISCUSS AND THAT IN ANY EVENT, GOTT WAS NOT "TWISTING ARMS" IN SUPPORT OF ITS VIEWS. BARRY REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN US VIEWS ON ISSUES FOREIGN MINISTER HAD RAISED AND THAT US WAS ALSO NOT ENGAGED IN ARM-TWISTING OR LOBBYING. THIS APPARENTLY MOLLIFIED BADEN-SEMPER AND REMAINDER OF CONVERSATION WENT SMOOTHLY.

B. COMMON FUND: BARRY NOTED GOTT'S INTEREST IN COMMON FUND AND INTEGRATED PROGRAM ON COMMODITIES AND ASKED WHETHER IT WAS PRICE STABILIZATION FEATURE OF COMMON FUND OR DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS (SECOND WINDOW) WHICH WAS OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO GOTT. BADEN-SEMPER INDICATED THAT THEY HAD NOT DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN TWO AND THAT THEY SUPPORTED IDEA IN INTEREST OF G-77 SOLIDARITY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. BARRY CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIEWED US AND OECD POSITION ON COMMON FUND, UNDERLINING DIVERGENT INTERESTS OF VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH MADE NEGOTIATIONS DIFFICULT.

C. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: NOTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON HAD RAISED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ISSUE AT LAST GA, BARRY ASKED BADEN-SEMPER TO DESCRIBE CURRENT GOTT VIEWS. BADEN-SEMPER SAID THAT WHILE TRINIDAD HAD NOT CONCLUDED THAT NEW UN MACHINERY TO FOLLOW-UP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (UNCSTD) WAS NECESSARY, IT DID BELIEVE THAT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING WOULD BE REQUIRED. GOTT WANTS CONFERENCE NOT SIMPLY TO BE A DISCUSSION FORUM BUT BELIEVES IT SHOULD SET NEW PROCESSES IN MOTION. ON CODE OF CONDUCT OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, BADEN-SEMPER DOUBTED THAT POLITICAL WILL EXISTED ON EITHER SIDE TO BRING ABOUT SUCCESS IN OCTOBER NEGOTIATIONS. BARRY DESCRIBED US PREPARATIONS FOR UNCSTD IN SOME DETAIL AND STRESSED US PREFERENCE FOR MAKING BETTER USE OF EXISTING UN MACHINERY RATHER THAN CREATING NEW INSTITUTIONS. HE NOTED THAT FATHER HESBURGH SHARED GOTT'S CONCERN THAT ADVANCED TRAINING INSTITUTIONS BE SET UP IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A FORM OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. ON CODE OF CONDUCT, BARRY

AGREED THAT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN OCTOBER SEEMED UNLIKELY, BUT UNDERLINED US SUPPORT FOR A VOLUNTARY CODE WHICH WOULD PROMOTE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR RATHER THAN DISCOURAGE IT.

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D. NAMIBIA: NOTING GOTT'S INTEREST IN AFRICA AS EXPRESSED BY DONALDSON LAST YEAR, BARRY DESCRIBED CURRENT STATE OF WESTERN PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA. HE SUGGESTED THAT GOTT CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING A SMALL CIVILIAN OR POLICE CON-

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TINGENT TO UNTAG, AND BADEN-SEMPER REACTED WITH SOME INTEREST. BARRY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT OF NAMIBIA WOULD GIVE A BOOST TO SIMILAR EFFORTS IN RHODESIA, AND WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN UN. BARRY ALSO NOTED THAT US WOULD PRESS FOR FINANCING OF UNTAG THROUGH REGULAR UN BUDGET. BADEN-SEMPER NOTED THAT GOTT SUPPORTED WESTERN FIVE PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA.

E. MIDDLE EAST: NOTING THAT THIS WAS ALSO A SUBJECT WHICH US AND GOTT HAD HIGHLIGHTED AT LAST YEAR'S GA, BARRY OUTLINED US VIEWS OF ME-RELATED ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AT 33RD GA. HE SUGGESTED NEED TO AVOID ATTACKS ON BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT, AND IMPORTANCE OF STEERING CLEAR OF UNGA EFFORTS TO LEGISLATE A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT US OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE POLITICAL STATUS OF PLO. BLANCHFIELD ASKED FOR AN EXAMPLE OF THIS KIND OF RESOLUTION, AND BARRY CITED ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH THAT ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE CHANNLED THROUGH PLO RATHER THAN UNWRRRA. BLANCHFIELD RESPONDED THAT GOTT

WAS A MEMBER OF UNWRRRA STEERING GROUP AND CONSIDERED THAT PROBLEM WAS LACK OF FINANCING FOR UNWRRRA. BARRY AGREED THIS WAS IMPORTANT, BUT SUGGESTED THAT PUTTING PLO INTO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EQUATION WOULD AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION AS FAR AS US CONTRIBUTION WAS CONCERNED.

3. HAVING GONE THROUGH THEMES COVERED IN DONALDSON SPEECH, BARRY SAID HE WANTED TO RAISE SOME ISSUES OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO US.

A. PUERTO RICO: BARRY SAID THIS WAS AN ISSUE WHICH RANKED WITH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE US THIS YEAR. US RECOGNIZES THAT GOTT AND OTHER CARIBBEAN NATIONS ALSO HAVE A STRONG INTEREST IN PUERTO RICO. BARRY HANDED OVER PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION ON PUERTO RICO, SUMMARIZED ITS MAIN POINTS, AND ASKED THAT GOTT STUDY IT CAREFULLY AS THEY MADE THEIR DECISION ABOUT HOW TO VOTE IN COMMITTEE OF 24 THIS YEAR. HE NOTED THAT US FELT THAT MOTION TO DEFER MIGHT NOT CARRY THIS YEAR IF AFGHANISTAN AND ETHIOPIA CHANGED THEIR VOTES AND OTHERS VOTED SAME AS BEFORE. IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERING US POSITION THAT PUERTO RICO IS A QUESTION WITHIN DOMESTIC JURISDICTION OF THE US, BARRY ASKED THAT GOTT GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE EFFECT WHICH THROWING THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE INTO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRESUMABLY SHARES WITH US THE GOAL STATED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION OF ALLOWING THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO ANY STATUS THEY CHOOSE. CONFRONTATIONAL UNGA DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO'S STATUS COULD MAKE THIS GOAL MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECT ON OPINION ON THE US MAINLAND AND PUERTO RICO. BADEN-SEMPER RESPONDED THAT PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN A RESULT OF INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE. BARRY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS IS A POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION, BUT THAT PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION RESTATED US POLICY ON RECORD SINCE 1953.

B. GUAM: BARRY BRIEFLY RELATED STATUS OF GUAM CONSTITUTIONAL

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TUTION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT C-24 COULD COME UP WITH A RESOLUTION SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S.

C. NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: BARRY CITED PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AS EVIDENCE OF US BELIEF THAT A TRULY NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COULD HAVE A POSITIVE

MODERATES WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN NAM LEADERSHIP AND NOTED APPARENT CONCERN OF NAM LEADERS SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA, AND INDONESIA THAT MOVEMENT COULD BE CAPTURED BY ADVOCATES OF A RADICAL IDEOLOGICAL POSITION. BADEN-SEMPER NOTED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE BALANCE BUILT INTO NAM AND DOUBTED THAT THIS COULD BE RADICALLY ALTERED.

D. OVERVIEW COMMITTEE: BARRY EXPLAINED US IDEAS ABOUT FUTURE WORK OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEXT MEETING WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. BADEN-SEMPER EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT EXISTED BETWEEN G-77 AND OECD COUNTRIES TO PERMIT MUCH PROGRESS. BARRY SUGGESTED THAT IF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE FAILED, ANOTHER FORUM WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND WHICH WOULD PERMIT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO CONSENSUS ON SOME ISSUES.

E. HUMAN RIGHTS: BARRY DESCRIBED SOME US CONCERNS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AND ASKED GOTT'S VIEWS ON HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL AND POSSIBLE GREATER COORDINATING ROLE FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY. BADEN-SEMPER REACTED NON-COMMITTALLY BUT SUGGESTED THAT A DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM WITH VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ILO FREE TO PURSUE THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO GIVING UNGA OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY.

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THAT GOTT STUDY THEM. BADEN-SEMPER INDICATED THAT US IDEA OF DISCUSSING MORE ISSUES IN SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT INTER-

FERE WITH UNGA MANDATE WHICH BARRY ASSURED HIM WAS NOT THE CASE.

G. INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE: BADEN-SEMPER ASKED US VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE. BARRY SAID THAT PRAGMATIC WAY OF DEALING WITH PROBLEM WAS THROUGH US-USSR NEGOTIATIONS.

5. COMMENT. OUR MAIN CONCERN OVER THE WEEKS AHEAD WILL BE WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE AN AFFIRMATIVE GOTT VOTE ON A MOTION TO DEFER THE CUBAN RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24. ARA AND IO MIGHT DISCUSS WITH AMBASADOR FOX WHETHER A WORKABLE STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING THIS CAN BE DEvised. ONE POSSIBILITY THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IS TO CATER TO GOTT'S INTEREST IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND UNCSTD BY CONSULTING ACTIVELY WITH THEM. IF THIS PLAN WERE TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT, WE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL NOT TO CREATE EXPECTATIONS WHICH WILL NOT BE FULFILLED. PURELY ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE A POSSIBILITY THAT GOTT WOULD VOTE OUR WAY THIS YEAR
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IF EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON KEEPING THE ISSUE WITHIN THE C-24 RATHER THAN ON THE ARGUMENT OF WHETHER OR NOT A COLONIAL RELATIONSHIP EXISTS. HOWEVER, A DECISION TO ALTER PAST INSTRUCTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE PERSONALLY BY ERIC WILLIAMS AND WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE UNPREDICTABLE. IN ANY EVENT, CHARGE WILL RAISE ISSUE AT A HIGHER LEVEL AS SOON AS AN APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED.
O'MAHONY

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